

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----090802Z 091855 /15

R 090702Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3614  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 7552

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GW, UK, FR

SUBJECT: QUADRIPARTITE MEETINGS ON BERLIN AND GERMANY:  
ALLIED-SOVIET EXCHANGES ON FLAG PATROLS

1. AT THE OUTSET OF THE MAY 7 SENIOR LEVEL MEETING, THE U.S., U.K. AND FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES DISCUSSED THE RECENT ALLIED DEMARCHES TO THE SOVIETS ON FLAG PATROLS. U.S. REP. HARTMEN LED OFF BY DESCRIBING SECRETARY VANCE'S MAY 3 MEETING WITH DOBRYNIN. HARTMAN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD PROBABLY NOT IMMEDIATELY RETURN TO THE SUBJECT BUT MIGHT DO SO AT SOME FUTURE DATE. HE THOUGHT THAT IF THEY DID SO, IT MIGHT BE IN A LARGER TACTICAL CONTEXT, E.G., WITH THE AIM OF INITIATING FOUR-POWER CONSULTATIONS TO DEAL WITH OTHER PROBLEMS RELATED TO BERLIN.

2. FRENCH REP. DE LA BOULAYE SAID HIS REPORT COULD BE QUITE BRIEF. HIS MINISTER HAD READ THE AGREED ALLIED SECRET

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STATEMENT TO AMBASSADOR CHERVONENKO AND HAD STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. CHERVONENKO REPLIED THAT THE SOVIETS TOO VALUED THE AGREEMENT HIGHLY AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT THE FRENCH POSITION TO MOSCOW. DE LA BOULAYE SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS FROM THE EXCHANGE.

3. HIBBERT SAID HE HAD CALLED IN SOVIET DCM SEMYONOV AND READ THE ALLIED STATEMENT. HE TOLD SEMYONOV THAT THE REPLY HAD BEEN PERSONALLY APPROVED BY HIS MINISTER. AFTER HEARING THE UK RESPONSE, SEMYONOV SAID THAT IT WENT FAR BEYOND THE ISSUE RAISED BY THE SOVIETS. HE REITERATED THE ARGUMENT THAT THE PATROLS WERE NOT PERFORMING MEANINGFUL DUTIES. HIBBERT REPLIED THAT THE SOVIET APPROACH HAD RAISED SERIOUS ISSUES AND, FURTHER, THAT IT WAS NOT UP TO THE SOVIETS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PATROLS HAD A USEFUL PURPOSE. HIBBERT WENT ON TO STATE THAT THE UK PATROLS IN EAST BERLIN (HE STRESSED THESE WERE NOT POLICE PATROLS AS THE SOVIETS HAD ALLEGED) WERE PERFORMING THE SAME FUNCTION AS SOVIET PATROLS IN WEST BERLIN, I.E., EXERCIZING THEIR RIGHTS AS CONFIRMED IN THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AND DECLARATION. SEMYONOV SAID HE WOULD REPORT THE UK VIEWS.

4. HIBBERT SAID THAT HIS IMPRESSION FROM HEARING THE EXPERIENCES OF THE THREE DEMARCHES WAS THAT THE SOVIETS WERE STORING UP AMMUNITION FOR USE AT SOME FUTURE POINT, PERHAPS IN CONNECTION WITH BERLIN AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION. HE FELT THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD INITIATE INTERFERENCE WITH THE PATROLS AT AN EARLY DATE.

5. VAN WELL SAID HE FELT THAT THE SOVIETS HAD RAISED THE PATROL ISSUE FOR VARIOUS REASONS, NOT LEAST OF THOSE BEING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ISSUE FOR USE IN THE FUTURE. HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE GDR WAS PRESSING THE SOVIETS IN THIS AREA. THE GDR WAS RESTLESS WITH THE  
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LIMITATIONS ON ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND WAS DISAPPOINTED

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USMISSION BERLIN  
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EXDIS

WITH THE LIMITED RESULTS OF ITS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION. THUS, HE THOUGHT THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN SIMPLY TRYING TO GIVE THE GDR SOME SATISFACTION. THEY WOULD NOT, IN HIS VIEW, PRESS THE ISSUE TO THE POINT OF CREATING A CRISIS' HOWEVER. THE ALLIED RESPONSES HAD BEEN FIRM AND SERIOUS. MOREOVER, THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THE SOVIETS WERE SEEKING A CONFRONTATION. THEY SEEMED TO WANT PROGRESS IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE WEST AND WERE PREPARING CAREFULLY FOR THE CSCE CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE. VAN WELL WAS DOUBTFUL THAT THE USSR WAS REALLY INTENT ON CAUSING PROBLEMS OVER BERLIN AND EC DEVELOPMENTS. HE THOUGHT THE SOVIETS ACTUALLY WANTED TO REACH SOME AGREEMENTS WITH THE EC AND SO WOULD THINK TWICE ABOUT CREATING DIFFICULTIES OVER BERLIN IN THAT CONTEXT.

6. THE DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT CONCLUDED WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES AGREEING THAT WE WOULD ALL KEEP A CAREFUL EYE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN BERLIN WITH REGARD TO  
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PATROLS. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT, FOR THE TIME BEING, THERE SHOULD BE NO PUBLICITY OR LEAKS ABOUT THE RECENT EXCHANGES WITH THE SOVIETS ON THE PATROL ISSUE. THE FRENCH REP. THOUGHT THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME TACTICAL ADVANTAGE AT SOME POINT IN PUBLICIZING IT BUT THAT POINT HAD NOT BEEN REACHED.

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## Message Attributes

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